

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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R 191105Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9371

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3039

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CM
SUBJECT: CAMEROONIAN AID REQUESTS: DESIGNATION OF LIAISON
OFFICER

REF: YAOUNDE 2903

1. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING AND DISCUSSIONS REPORTED REFTTEL, AID DIRECTOR (RDO) KOEHRING RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AUG 12 FROM EDOUARD NOMO ONGOLO (PAST CAMEROONIAN COMMERICAL ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, AND NOW DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY IN MIN ECON/PLAN) REQUESTING A MEETING WITH HIM. NOMO HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY MINISTER OF ECON/PLAN TO BE PERSON TO HANDLE DIRECT LIAISON BETWEEN GURC AND EMBASSY/USAID CONCERNING IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR USG (NON-MILITARY) ASSISTANCE AND COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES. INITIAL MEETING TOOK PLACE IN RDO'S OFFICE MORNING AUG 13 WITH EMB ECONOFF PARTICIPATING. MEETING PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH DETERMINING EXACTLY WHAT NOMO INSTRUCTIONS WERE AND PROVIDING GENERAL ORIENTATION ON AID POLICY. NOMO STRESSED THAT HE WAS TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTER AND CONVERSATIONS SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. MINISTER WOULD DECIDE WHEN AND HOW TO BRING POSSIBILITIES IDENTIFIED INTO OPEN. PROCEDURE (AS EXPLAINED BY NOMO) BASED ON NEED FOR MINISTER TO HANDLE PROBLEM DIRECTLY AS OFTEN REGIONAL COMPETITION, INERTIA, ETC., SLOWED NORMAL CHANNELS. NOMO EMPHASIZED THAT HIS FUNCTION WAS TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING NECESSARY INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO INSURE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR USG AND COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE
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IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. SPECIAL EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO

MEET USG CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES.

2. IN PAST, LACK OF FOCAL POINT FOR CONTACT HAS RESULTED IN DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING GURC COOPERATION. AS NOMO HIMSELF POINTED OUT, VISITING DELEGATIONS GET SPECIAL TREATMENT DURING VISIT WITH MAXIMUM EXPOSURE AND FOCUSED PRESENTATIONS. RDO RESIDENCE IN YAOUNDE FORCES HIM TO DEAL WITH EACH MINISTRY ON ROUTINE BASIS. SINGLE CONTACT, FOCUSING ON US NEEDS AND PRIORITIES, SHOULD RESULT IN BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRAMS.

3. DESIGNATION OF NOMO IS GOOD SIGN OF GURC INTEREST AND INTENT. NOMO KNOWS US WELL, AND AS DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, HE IS A KEY MAY IN MIN ECON/PLAN WHILE NOT ROUTINELY INVOLVED IN AID MATTERS.

4. THIS MESSAGE STADIS DUE INABILITY, IN HIS ABSENCE, COORDINATE RDO. HOWEVER BELIEVED DEPT SHOULD BE AWARE PROMPT CAMEROONIAN IMPLEMENTATION PROMISE APPOINT SINGLE COORDINATOR MADE AMBASSADOR BY PRESIDENT AHIDJO AND SECY GEN EBOUA. MITHOEFER

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